

Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 EB-11 COME-00 PM-09 NSC-10

SS-15 SCEM-02 INT-08 FPC-01 TRSE-00 AID-20 IGA-02

PA-03 PRS-01 L-03 RSR-01 /115 W
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O 111722 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3728

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

DUSA (IA) IMMEDIATE

SEC PAN CAN CO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCSOUTH IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN JOSE 1259

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CS, PN, PQ

SUBJECT: ELECTRICITY CRISIS: REQUEST FOR POWER BARGES

REF: STATE 69*560 PANAMA 2012

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT FIGUERES SAYS EFFORT TO OBTAIN POWER BARGES NEED NOT BE PURSUED. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT CONTINUE EFFORTS TO OBTAIN SMALLER, AIR PORTABLE GENERATORS OF 1 - 3 MEGAWATTS. END SUMMARY.

1. I SPOKE TO PRESIDENT FIGUERES BY PHONE THIS MORNING TO RELAY THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REFTELS AND TO ASK WHETHER UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES HE WISHED US TO PROCEED WITH THE REQUEST FOR POWER BARGES. THE PRESIDENT THANKED ME FOR OUR EFFORTS BUT SAID THAT IN VIEW OF THE DIFFICULTIES POSED, ESPECIALLY THE DELAY WHICH WOULD BE INVOLVED, WE SHOULD NOT PURSUE THE MATTER.

2. THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT THE SECOND GAS
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GENERATOR NOW BEING INSTALLED WILL BE ON STREAM WITHIN A WEEK, THUS RELIEVING THE WORST OF THE CRISIS, PROVIDED THE RAINS ARE NOT TOO DELAYED. HE DID ASK THAT WE DO ANYTHING WE CAN TO PROVIDE SMALLER GENERATOR UNITS OF FROM ONE TO THREE MEGAWATTS WHICH COULD BE BROUGHT BY AIR AND WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL FOR SPOT REQUIREMENTS. THE GOCR MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING SUCH UNITS. I THEREFORE REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO LOCATE SUCH UNITS, INCLUDING THE 3.5 MEGAWATT SAFEGUARD UNITS MENTIONED IN SULLIVAN/ LANE TELECON APRIL 10. WHILE SALE OF THESE UNITS MAY BE OF INTEREST, I WOULD LIKE TO BE IN POSITION TO OFFER THEM AS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE IF THE PRESENT CRISIS HAS NOT AMELIORATED.

3. I ALSO MENTIONED TO THE PRESIDENT THE CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS WITH ICE AND AMERICAN ELECTRICAL POWER COMPANY CONCERNING POSSIBLE PURCHASE OR RENTAL OF LARGE PRATT WHITNEY GENERATORS (EMBTEL 1254). PRESIDENT EXPRESSED HIS INTEREST IN THIS POSSIBILITY AS A PARTIAL SOLUTION FOR LONGER- TERM.

VAKY

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SANJO001259
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730440/aaaaigec.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 69560, 73 PANAMA 2012
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971224
Subject: ELECTRICITY CRISIS: REQUEST FOR POWER BARGES
TAGS: ENRG, CS, PN, PQ
To: ARA
CINCSOUTH
DUSA (IA)
PANAMA
SEC PAN CAN CO WASHDC
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005